

Rep. Terry "Deeply" Concerned About Bellevue Clinic's Plans To
Offer Late-term Abortions
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(RTTNews) - A Nebraska lawmaker is expressing concern about reports that a Bellevue clinic may soon start performing late-term abortions.

Dr. LeRoy Carhart is a colleague of Kansas Dr. George Tiller, who was slain in recent weeks by a gunman seeking to stop his performance of late-term abortions.

In response to Tiller's family's decision to close the clinic at which he performed the controversial procedures, Carhart reportedly said he was considering offering late-term abortions at a Kansas facility as well as offering them temporarily at his existing clinic in Bellevue.

Carhart, who worked with Tiller and had performed abortions at his clinic, had not previously offered abortions after the 22nd week of pregnancy in Nebraska because state law is more restrictive of the procedure than in Kansas.

That prompted Rep. Lee Terry, R-Nebraska 2, to signal his opposition.

"It is deeply concerning that Dr. Carhart wants to make our community the center of horrific late term abortions," Terry said in a written statement. "I believe life begins at conception and I will continue to fight against any legislation that would allow for the destruction of human life."

Tiller's clinic, which was one of only a few in the country to offer late term abortions, closed after his shooting death May 31.

Nebraska law generally bars abortions after the unborn child appears to be "clearly" viable outside the womb.

However, there is an exemption to "preserve the life or health" of the mother, a provision that many abortion opponents feel is too broad and can be interpreted as preserving the mental health of the mother which they contend could apply in virtually any case.

Despite his personal opposition, Nebraska Attorney General Jon Brunning reportedly said that loophole would prevent him from taking legal measures to block Carhart's plans.

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